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Hide and Seek

St Helena Police unsuccessful in locating two 'wanted' males



Minister to "Drug Mule"



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Drought Response Plan activated as public urged to reduce water consumption



Harpers 1 reservoir during the last drought, pictured on 13 August 2019

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

'Inspiring' is what I thought recently when Jasmine Harrison attempted to swim around the island. Admittedly that thought was followed closely by...CRAZY!!

Although I have since realised that I am not an adventurer at heart at all, I do think there is a valuable lesson to be learnt from people who push the boundaries of what is possible. Sometimes we all need to realise that it is necessary to take risks and make sacrifices to achieve a different outcome. We need to challenge ourselves to get out of the rut of mediocrity and routine to effect change.

In life we face many choices and every choice we make has consequences. If we keep making the same choices, the outcome is bound to be the same. All of us have dreams and goals that we would like to achieve. The lesson we need to learn from adventurers and innovators is to actively make decisions that will help us to move towards making our dreams a reality.

I know this can sometimes seem daunting and unattainable, but I would like to quote one of Deon's favourite sayings, 'How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.' If we take one small step towards our goal every day, we will get there in the end.

Now, for a word to the young people who are preparing for their important GCSE, AS and A-level exams - remember the choices you make now will have a lasting impact on your future. Although it is never too late to change the course of your life, it is always better to make good choices early on. As such, I encourage each one of you to put in as much effort as you can to achieve the best grade possible.

Let's all take a page from Jasmine's book and chase our dreams, one step at a time. Start challenging yourself today!

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ST HELENA NEWS

Hide and Seek

Royal St Helena Police unsuccessful in locating two 'wanted' males



Liam Yon, SAMS

In what is something unheard of for St Helena in its recent history, the Royal St Helena Police (RSHP) have informed and asked for assistance from the public as they work to locate two fugitives wanted by Police; though so far, after well over a week, they are yet to apprehend either of the two.

On Tuesday, 27 January, the RSHP posted what they described as a "community alert" to their Facebook Page where they asked for community support to locate resident, Keegan Thomas, who they said was being "sought for questioning in relation to a number of offences," adding that if anyone sees Keegan to "phone police immediately."

Later on Tuesday, they issued another appeal, this time described as an "urgent announcement" where they spoke directly to the man in question. "Royal St Helena Police Service are urging Keegan Thomas to hand himself in to police for his own safety," they said. "The police have received information indicating a credible threat to his life and the only way we feel we can keep him safe is for him to hand himself in to police immediately."

Further to this developing story, Police took to Facebook again on Wednesday of last week, where they revealed that they were trying to locate another male resident. "The Royal Saint Helena Police Service needs to speak with Rick Marc Thomas of Longwood, he is wanted by police for questioning in relation to making Threats to Kill, and has been recalled to prison," they posted. "The police urge members of the public to assist in keeping their community safe, and appeal for any information that may help."

In what seems a complete change in tone and tactics, Police on Tuesday of this week posted another appeal where they spoke directly to Rick, who less than a week ago they described as "armed and dangerous," though this time took a much friendlier approach.

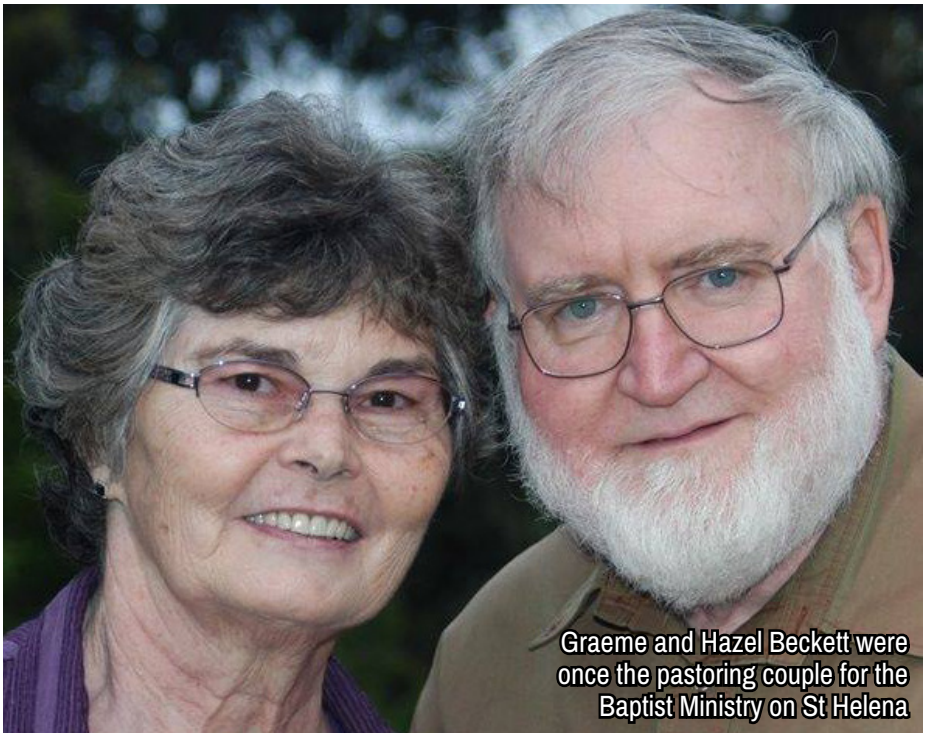
"Rick, we want to speak to you, our role is to be impartial and objective and we are willing to listen to you and work together," they said in their latest attempt to reach out. "Please bring yourself to the police station so we can talk about things, we are getting concerned for your safety and need to know you are safe and well."

Police went on to encourage Rick to contact them so that they could "talk things out".

At the time of writing, neither Rick nor Keegan had been located and picked up by St Helena Police. The Sentinel have reached out to the RSHP to question why it is taking them so long to locate either, or both, of the males. Sources confirm to The Sentinel that both remain active on Social Media. It seems for now, this highly-followed game of 'hide and seek' continues.

From Minister to "Drug Mule"

Former St Helena Pastor sentenced in Seychelles for cocaine importation



Graeme and Hazel Beckett were once the pastoring couple for the Baptist Ministry on St Helena

Liam Yon, SAMS

In shocking news that broke last week on Social Media, reports from the Seychelle's Nation newspaper - described as a reliable, established source for official news in the Seychelles - former Baptist Minister for St Helena, Graeme Beckett, has been sentenced to three and a half years in prison for the importation of a Class A drug, namely cocaine, to the Seychelles back in late 2023.

"Graeme Beckett, a 74-year-old British national, has been sentenced by the Supreme Court to three and a half years in prison and fined 50,000 Seychellois rupees for the importation of cocaine, a Class A controlled substance," the government-owned daily newspaper reported, using the headline 'British National sentenced for cocaine importation'.

According to The Sentinel's calculations, this fine equates to around £2,500.

"Mr Beckett, who pleaded guilty to the charge, was arrested on October 26, 2023, after arriving on an Ethiopian Airways flight with 1.48kg of cocaine concealed within three books," the report continued. "At the time of arrest, he was 71 years old and has been held in remand since then."

This means that the former Pastor for St Helena was remanded, likely in Seychelle's Montagne Posée Prison, for over two years as he awaited his sentencing which took place earlier this month.

"On January 16, 2026, Judge Gustave Dodin imposed what he characterised as a "minimal sentence," considering Beckett's age, deteriorating health, and his expressed remorse for being exploited as a drug mule," the Seychelle's Nation paper reports. "However, the judge firmly underscored the severity of the offence, noting that importing approximately 1.48 kg of cocaine is a grave violation of the law, regardless of the unclear commercial value and the potential involvement of other parties."

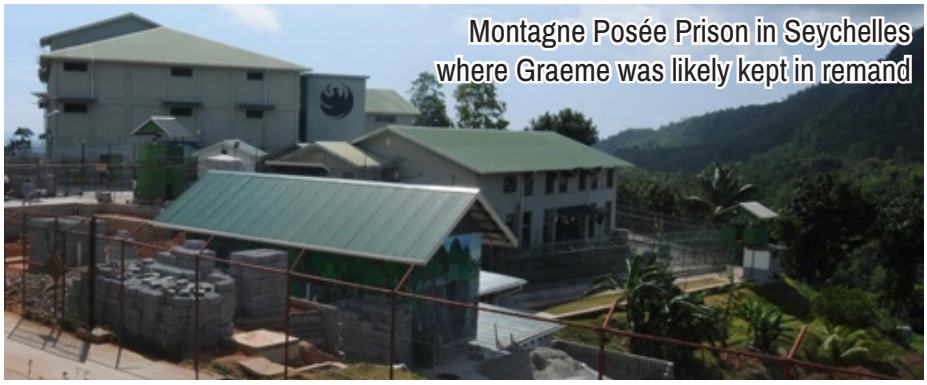
The article adds, with regard to sentencing, that "Mr Beckett is eligible for remission, with his time on remand deducted from his sentence. Judge Dodin also mandated that, upon payment of the R50,000 fine, Beckett is to be deported at the discretion of the Immigration Department within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Homeland Security."

According to the report, Graeme Beckett has 30 working days to file an appeal against the sentence if he wishes to do so.

Before his arrest, Graeme had resided in England though, as recognised by the article, had formerly served as a pastor in St Helena. Many and most on-Island will be familiar with Graeme who, alongside his wife, Hazel, served as the pastoring couple for the Baptist Ministry on St Helena for around eight years, arriving in early 2010 and staying until 2018. This role involved Graeme conducting three services every Sunday across different venues, including the Jamestown Baptist Church and the Sandy Bay Baptist Church.

Graeme was also well-known as an accomplished bugle and trumpet player, often sounding the 'Last Post' at significant ceremonies, such as Remembrance Day and the bicentennial commemorations for Napoleon Bonaparte. Beyond his religious duties, Graeme, who originates from Durban, in South Africa, also briefly served as the temporary General Manager of the St Helena Fisheries Corporation in 2017.

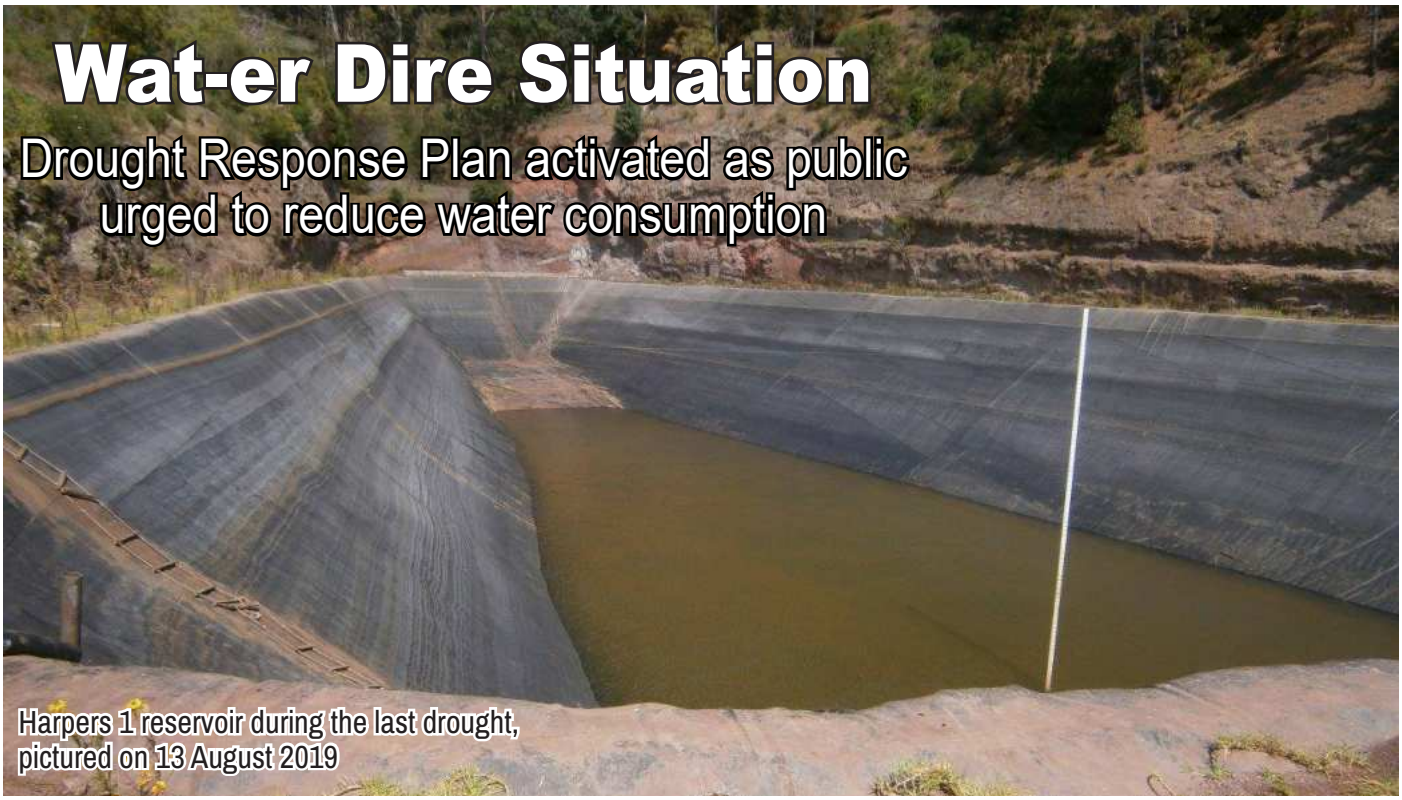
The news of Graeme's conviction in the Seychelles for cocaine importation drew high attention on Social Media due to the shock of his offence, considering his respected role as a former St Helena Pastor.



Montagne Posée Prison in Seychelles where Graeme was likely kept in remand

Wat-er Dire Situation

Drought Response Plan activated as public urged to reduce water consumption



Harpers 1 reservoir during the last drought, pictured on 13 August 2019

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena has once again entered into a period of drought, following low levels of rain and increased temperatures, which have resulted in low water supply stocks amid high levels of consumption – causing the Island's Drought Response Plan to be activated at stage one.

"St Helena has now entered the first stage of drought management as stored water levels continue to decline," announced Connect St Helena last week. "Current reserves stand at 81,009 cubic metres, equivalent to around 60 days of supply, and consumption remains high." They add that "daily demand is approximately 1,433 cubic metres, significantly exceeding the 887 cubic metres currently being abstracted."

Essentially, this means that St Helena is currently using much more water than it is getting in, causing stored levels to decline. As detailed by Connect, this imbalance, is exacerbated by steadily falling surface water flows and rising temperatures, adding to an increased strain on the Island's water resources.

They go on to inform how the Red Hill zone, which supplies residents and businesses in Half Tree Hollow, St Paul's, and the Hutt's Gate system - feeding Longwood and Alarm Forest - remains the highest-demand area; adding "further pressure to the water storage systems."

According to Connect, while a seasonal reduction in rainfall is "expected," there has been a "sharp drop in inflows" in recent weeks, resulting in an increased reliance on boreholes to maintain supply. They warn that "without a change in weather patterns, St Helena could face severe water shortages in the coming weeks."

Due to this, Connect have made a call to action, urging everyone on St Helena - from domestic to commercial as well as government users - to "avoid unnecessary consumption" of water, adding that "every effort made now" will help to preserve supplies and support the Island through this challenging period.

"St Helena's water resources are under significant pressure, and collective action is essential," they assert in their 'call to action'. "Notably, 2025 shows a sharp drop in rainfall after July, highlighting reduced precipitation in the latter half of the year, which may be contributing to current drought conditions."

Connect say that "by reducing consumption today, the community can help safeguard supplies and strengthen resilience until the next rainy season," which they "remain hopeful will arrive later this year."

The St Helena Resilience Forum (SHRF) also followed up Connect's announcement with a statement of their own, through their Warning and Informing Group, during which they confirmed their official move "into Stage One of the Drought Response Plan," adding that "this action is necessary to protect our remaining water reserves and to avoid a severe water crisis in the coming weeks."

The SHRF urges consumers to be responsible with their use of water; saving water whenever possible and reducing non-essential water use, with activities like washing of cars and unnecessary watering of gardens and lawns asked to be avoided during this period.

"To maintain a reliable water supply over the coming weeks, national resilience depends on every resident, business, and government department taking proactive steps now to extend our available water resources," states the SHRF. "By managing our water carefully today, we can help ensure there is enough to support the entire island until the rains return."

Connect Saint Helena say they will continue to monitor conditions closely and provide regular updates as the situation changes.

While this situation is worrying, it is not at all new to St Helena, an Island prone to drought.

Many will remember how 2019 was recorded, at the time, as the driest year on the island since records began in 1977. Due to this, Island-wide water restrictions and a hosepipe ban were imposed in June 2019 after a lack of rainfall caused reservoir levels to drop drastically. Prior

to that, a severe, prolonged drought occurred throughout 2016, with reservoirs at only 14% capacity by December of that year and, due to these dangerously low stocks, restrictions were put in place. Additionally, three years earlier, severe water shortages in May and June 2013 led to restrictions, with a hosepipe ban imposed from 1 March all the way through to August.

Similarly, with St Helena heading towards another serious water shortage, the Island must once again take steps to preserve water and get through another dry drought season on St Helena. While residents will have to play their part, there will be criticisms drawn to the operations of Connect St Helena following the damning report by the Utilities Regulatory Authority and the lack of efficiencies within Connect's services, including an incredibly high 48% water loss from the network during 2024/25 – water which would have been invaluable to the Island during this current drought period.



Low reservoir levels during 2019 drought on the Island

Comparing Health Governance

Minister Henry and CMO depart for Montserrat health systems exchange visit



— **Donna Crowie,** SAMS —

Departing on last weekend's flight was Minister for Health and Social Care, Martin Henry, along with Chief Medical Officer, Peter Moss, with the pair traveling to Montserrat as part of the reciprocal health systems exchange between the Governments of St Helena and Montserrat, supported and facilitated by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

According to St Helena Government, the purpose of the visit "is to deepen mutual understanding of how two small UK Overseas Territories with aid dependent health systems organise and govern health and public health services, while recognising the different contexts in which they operate."

Once having arrived to Montserrat, a programme has been set for Minister Henry and the CMO which will focus on comparing health governance frameworks, including how each government uses health legislation, ordinances and regulations to balance local priorities, standards of care and expectations. They will also explore approaches to health financing, the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the role of UK support in sustaining essential services and investing in public health infrastructure.

The trip also provides an opportunity to share experience on strengthening community-based care and safeguarding, managing off island referrals, links to the UK, and building resilient public health surveillance systems and sustainable workforces in very small health systems.

During the absence of Minister Henry, Minister Andrew Turner will be the point of contact for Health and Social Care. Minister Henry is scheduled to arrive back to St Helena on Saturday, 14 February.

"This new system works to benefit you"



St Helena Dental Clinic clarifies new appointment system after public feedback

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Dental Clinic recently announced a change to the Dental Emergency Service with immediate effect; the service having now moved to an appointment-only system for all dental emergencies, with the traditional Walk-In Clinics at 8:30am being discontinued.

Following this announcement last week, criticism was aimed at this change from members of the public who noted the benefit of being able to walk-in to the dental clinic when suffering from an unexpected dental emergency (e.g. a severe toothache). Many bemoaned and dreaded having to wait for an appointment later in the week, or even further down the line, when urgent attention was required.

Due to this feedback, the Dental Clinic issued a further update, this time providing much more clarity on how the new appointment system will work; with patients requiring emergency care still expected to be seen on the same morning with the aim of the appointment system being solely to reduce waiting time and increase patient comfort.

"The St Helena Dental Clinic has noted the recent feedback regarding the transition to an appointment-only emergency service," they said in the follow-up release. "We understand that changes to healthcare can cause concern, and we want to clarify how this new system works to benefit you."

They detail how, "under the old walk-in system, many patients would arrive at 08:30 and face long, uncertain wait times in a crowded waiting room while in pain." This they add "was not the level of care," that the service wants to provide.

Focussing on the new process, they state that "by calling 25387 at 8:30am instead of walking in, you will be given a specific time to arrive, you can wait in the comfort of your home rather than a clinic waiting room, and our dentists can better prepare for your specific emergency."

This clarifies concerns from the public of appointments for emergency dental services being booked in for a significant period of time after having any problems. As explained, appointments will be booked for the same day in as quick a time as possible once a patient calls in at 8.30am.

"The goal is to ensure that anyone in genuine pain or with a dental trauma is seen as quickly as possible, without the stress of a 'first-come, first-served' queue," the Dental Clinic concluded. "We appreciate your patience as we make this transition to a more organised and patient-focused service."

The clinic constitutes a dental emergency as someone experiencing dental trauma, facial swelling or acute pain caused by the extraction of very loose teeth.



Book of the Week

Public Library Service



The Next Mrs Parrish by Liv Constantine

Amber Patterson Parrish has come a long way. Hard work and immaculate planning turned her from invisible wallflower to prominent socialite, but there have been bumps along the way. Less than a year after her husband Jackson's tax-evasion scandal, Amber reigns supreme over the Bishops Harbour community. But with Jackson being released from prison, Amber's free time and money is vanishing.

Meanwhile, Daphne Parrish left Bishops Harbour after her divorce from Jackson, swearing she would never go back. But when one of her daughters runs away from home, desperate to see her father, Daphne agrees to return for the summer. Jackson swears he's a changed man, but Daphne knows all too well that he can't be trusted.

When a ghost from Amber's past emerges looking for revenge, these three find unlikely allies in one another. But who is playing who? When all is said and done, they'll have to fight tooth and nail for everything they have left in this zero-sum game.

Please reserve by contacting the following:-
Telephone Number: 22580
Email: publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh

Dangerously Beautiful



Rough seas put on a show, though SHG warn of safety concerns

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena is currently experiencing some rough sea conditions, with the sound of crashing waves being heard down at the Sea Front since Friday morning of last week. This is however not unusual for this time of year; February often brings large waves to the Island's coastline each year.

Having started on Friday, sea conditions worsened over the weekend and on Sunday, St Helena Government issued some safety advice after recognising that a "north-westly swell" had brought "unexpected, unsettled sea conditions in James Bay and Rupert's bay." Their guidance, as usual, was that swimmers should exercise "extreme caution" while boat owners should ensure vessels were secured. As always, motorists were also advised to avoid parking near the sea-front railings.

Later in the day on Sunday, SHG went a step further and announced a closure of Rupert's Jetty due to the dangerous conditions. An account of a visitor to Rupert's on Sunday, described the waves as being "nearing the height of the Jetty itself" while they joked that even the stacked containers awaiting the arrival of the MV Karoline was "given a wash down" by the incoming waves.

Meanwhile at James Bay, many residents came down to witness the ferocity of the sea as, despite its danger, it also makes for an incredible spectacle; providing ideal photography and videography opportunities. A visitor to the Wharf mentioned how "there were times when the landing steps were completely covered by the incoming waves."

These sea conditions continued into the working week and therefore, on Monday, SHG made the decision to extend the closure of Rupert's Jetty to also include the beach area, due again to the obvious safety concerns related to the rough seas.

While many are enjoying this display of the ocean's power, it is hoped sea conditions will improve ahead of the arrival of the MV Karoline on Monday, 9 February, to allow cargo operations to commence as scheduled for the first voyage of 2026.



The large waves covered the access to the Ruperts Jetty in rocks and debris



Motorists were advised not to park near the safety railings





The Enchanted Isle battles the rough conditions at the Wharf Landing Steps

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

Adding Colour to the Past

Tinus le Roux visits St Helena to share his passion for colourising Anglo-Boer War images to bring history to life, proving that a picture is worth a thousand words



Boers on horseback

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On 23 January, St Helena Tourism hosted a talk by Tinus le Roux at the Museum of St Helena to share some insights regarding the Boer Prisoners of War that were imprisoned on St Helena between 1900 and 1902.

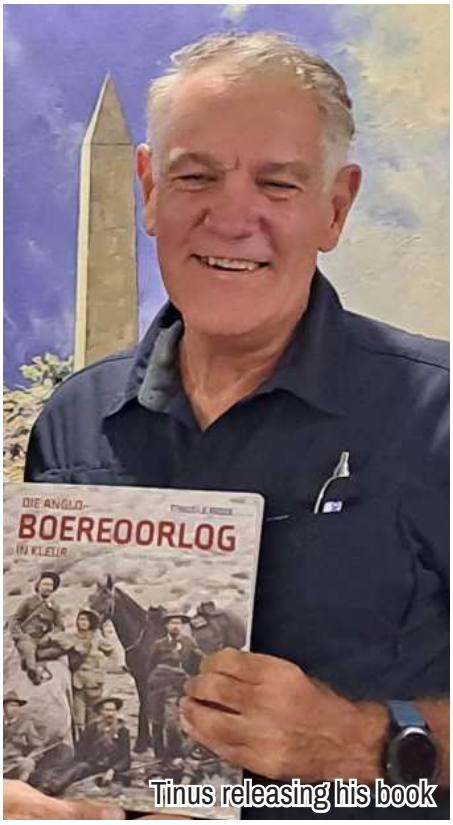
Tinus le Roux is a military history enthusiast who started colourising Anglo-Boer War images in 2014. He also colourises World War II images, specifically those related to the South African Air Force. Several of his colourised images have been published in books, bringing history to life.

The evening was opened with all guests welcomed by the Head of Tourism, Jonathan Passpaportis. He handed over the floor to Tinus, who entertained all attending with a slide show outlining the life and events of the Boer Prisoners of War (PoW) on St Helena, providing some interesting background information by elaborating on the sequence of events that took place prior to them coming to St Helena.

Through his colourised pictures, Tinus aims to capture the essence of the Anglo-Boer War and the impact it had on the South African society on a political, social and economical front. These images were published in two books, the first of which was printed three years ago. To his surprise, this book was a huge success, being reprinted six times and selling over 50,000 copies. The first images he colourised for this book came mainly from The Battle of Paardeberg. "This was the first major victory of the British over the Boers. They took 4,000 prisoners but they didn't have anywhere to hold them prisoner in South Africa. They were sent to temporary camps, but it was decided to send them to camps overseas," explained Tinus. This decision was taken mainly to prevent the Afrikaner residents in the Cape Colony from causing an uprising and assisting the prisoners to escape. The two battles preceding The Battle of Paardeberg (The Battle of Modderrivier and The Battle of Magersfontein) were very bloody battles with heavy losses for the British. After being interned at the temporary camps in Cape Town, these prisoners were sent off to India.

Similarly, Boer prisoners that were captured during later battles were sent to St Helena on very crowded ships, heavily guarded to prevent escapees or any attempts to free the PoWs. "For them it was tough, most Boers had never seen the sea, let alone having sailed on it. A lot of them got seasick and in addition there was inadequate food supplies and overcrowding on the transport ships," elaborated Tinus. The next slide he shared with the audience showed the prisoners being transported with smaller ships to go ashore and then walking up to the Grand Parade in Jamestown. After gathering here, the first shipment of PoWs had to walk the six miles to the camp in Deadwood. There is a lot of information and images available relating to the conditions and activities as well as the accommodation in the camps. From 1900 to 1902, St Helena had to house nearly 6,000 Boer PoWs, making for one of the greatest logistical challenges the island has ever faced.

The camp in Deadwood was known as "Blikkiesdorp" which directly translates to Tin Town as the Boers impris-



Tinus releasing his book

oned in this camp used empty biscuit tins to clad the huts where they stayed. The tented camp at Broadbottom was called "Lappiesdorp" translating to Cloth Town. This was illustrated by photos that formed part of Tinus' slide show. Conditions in the camp were much better than what the women and children had to endure in the concentration camps in South Africa with the Governor of St Helena at the time expressing "the hope that the population will treat the prisoners-of-war with that courtesy and consideration which should be extended to all men who have fought bravely for what they considered the cause of their country," according to official records.

Two important generals were imprisoned on St Helena, General Piet Cronje who surrendered with 4,000 Boer fighters, and General Ben Viljoen of the Transvaal. The latter was only captured and brought to St Helena in January of 1902. General Cronje was treated with great respect on St Helena but initially General Viljoen was treated as an ordinary soldier. This was later rectified with him moving into a house provided to him on St Helena.

Tinus continued to show photos of the Church built by the Boers, who were very religious, furnished with handmade benches, chairs and other furniture. The slide show continued, showing a typical Boer funeral held here on the island, where they were buried in the location currently known as the Boer cemetery located on a piece of land donated by the Baptist church.

At the camps there were small businesses and even a bar selling alcohol and tobacco. There was a photographer on-Island at the time of the Boer imprisonment, accounting for the extensive photographic record of their time spent on St Helena. To while their time, the Boer prisoners made all kinds of furniture and keepsakes, some examples of which can still be seen in the Museum.

In addition, the Boers participated and arranged sporting events and even a charity concert where they performed songs, played instruments and put on a play. Sports that were commonly played at the camps included rugby, cricket, fencing, tennis and soccer or football. Tinus showed slides where a sportsevent was organised on the 11th of October in honour of President Paul Kruger and President Steyn. During this event, participants competed in various events like the 120 yard sprint, shot put, cricket ball throw and tug-of-war with prizes for the winners including a box of tobacco and copper badges.

Tinus ended off telling the story of Andries Smorenburg, a Boer Commandant and PoW on St Helena who made a famous escape attempt during the Second Anglo-Boer War. He made a wooden crate and marked it as 'Boer Curios', packing it with clothing and food and water. He managed to 'post' himself hidden in the crate to a British steamer. The crate was handled roughly and as it overturned, Smorenburg lost most of his water supply and sustained a concussion. His absence was noted and British authorities was notified via telegraph, intercepting the ship. Smorenburg was discovered on board and detained at Ascension only to be returned to St Helena a mere five days later where he was imprisoned at High Knoll Fort until the end of the war.

The final slides showed photos of the Boers getting ready to return home after the end of the war, leaving behind their legacy in the form of a photographic record in the history of St Helena, brought to life through the books and colourised images of Tinus le Roux during his visit to the island.



Boer Group Photo



Young Boer Boy



Tinus with one of his colourised photos

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

I don't like Cricket, I love it!

Derek Richards speaks to Tony Leo about the St Helena Team's upcoming tour to Ghana to participate in the ICC T20 tournament among other developments



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Last week, during the Northward Sounds Show on SAMS Radio 1, Derek Richards, President of the St Helena Cricket Association (SHCA), came in to talk about St Helena's National Cricket team's invitation to participate in the ICC T20 Tournament for 2026.

The ICC (International Cricket Council) T20 Tournament is a biennial event with the national team attending the previous tournament in 2024, hosted in Nigeria. Although the tournament usually takes place around October/November, it came as a surprise to the team to receive the invitation to this year's tournament scheduled to take place in Ghana from 23-30 March. With the possibility of flight delays and taking into account travel time, the team will be heading out from St Helena a little earlier, allowing them also to train abroad, prior to the tournament, to get used to the climate and altitude. With just a little more than a month left to prepare, the team will be putting in all their efforts to ensure they are ready for the tournament and ready to once again do St Helena proud. Other countries participating in the tournament include the Seychelles, Ghana, Eswatini, Tanzania and Malawi, with the six teams having an opportunity to compete against each other.

According to Derek, the team have been practicing throughout. "We are quite fortunate to have maintained a good core to the national team," he said. Ghana is a country renowned for its hot weather, making the heated summer weather we are currently experiencing on the island ideal to help the team acclimatise and practice for the impending tournament. A squad of fourteen team members will make up the team, along with the team manager and coach. Aiden Leo, who has represented St Helena internationally before, has returned home this week and, having proven that he continued to train and participate in cricket matches as part of a team abroad, he could be considered for the team with the necessary approval from the ICC as well.

Coach Nadeem Ahmed, who has been involved with the St Helenian cricket team for a time now, has been working with them remotely over the past couple of months since he last visited the island at the end of 2025. He arrived this week to resume in-person training. Derek said that with the cricket season on the island having recently started, it is clear that the continuous training by the members of the national team is paying off with "maybe five centuries scored in the past four weeks" as well as the bowlers showing great improvements too.

In addition to coaching the national team, Coach Nadeem will also be working with other interested players in separate sessions to improve their skills and learn new techniques, for example spin bowling, during his time on island. This provides a good platform for prospective players who would like to represent St Helena in

the future to hone their skills. To encourage young players to participate and become involved in cricket on the island, the SHCA have decided to make provision for one young cricket player to accompany the team on the tournament to observe and gain some valuable experience in the international environment, but not necessarily to participate in the matches.

With the tournament just around the corner, the SHCA are grateful for the money they raised during the recent fundraising sweepstakes held over the Christmas period. Although this has been a successful initiative, there are still more funds needed. "If someone wants to donate money, or other businesses and companies would want to sponsor the team, we are happy to give the required exposure with logos on shirts etc," appealed Derek. "We give everybody credit via our website and our Facebook page, so there is a lot of opportunity for people to sponsor St Helena Cricket. Everyone can help. Supporting the team will also promote St Helena as a whole."

The SHCA, through annual sponsorships from the ICC, is also one of the only sporting associations to bring money in for the island. These sponsorships are dependent on certain obligations that the SHCA have to meet, like attending the biennial qualifiers tournament, as well as the development of women's cricket and a youth league on St Helena, being some of the key obligations; though the ICC are understanding of the limitations experienced on the island.

Another exciting event on this year's cricket calendar for St Helena is a visit from the Falkland Islands Cricket team, due to take place in October this year. This visit was brought on in part due to the visit by the Titans team from South Africa, with the Falklands team expressing a desire to participate in a similar exposure visit. The two associations have worked together to make this a reality, which will support St Helena as well as the Falklands in maintaining their ranking within the ICC, as all teams need to participate in a set number of games (five) annually. Currently, Cricket St Helena is ranked 92nd in the world and 18th out of the 24 African countries participating in international cricket.

With this relationship between the cricket associations having been established, it looks likely that the Falklands ladies cricket team will visit St Helena in December this year together with their Netball team. The SHCA is working with the Women's Sports Association (WSA) to make this sporting event a possibility, working towards another successful collaboration between the two islands.

Although the Falklands cricket team will sponsor their own travel costs, Cricket St Helena will be responsible for providing accommodation and food. The SHCA is a small association with only four members who ensure that the cricket season runs smoothly and well-organised on the island, together with the team captains who make up the operational team in charge of various tasks during the season. Derek took the opportunity to call on anyone who would like to assist in housing the sixteen people forming part of the Falklands team during their visit. The visiting team indicated that they would be happy to stay in houses and homes on island as long as it provides the team with a comfortable and suitable home environment during their visit.

Derek ended his interview by offering anyone on St Helena who is interested in undergoing training as a Cricket Umpire the opportunity to participate in a Level 1 Umpire Course presented by Cricket South Africa online. To sign up for this course, interested parties can register with the SHCA to undergo training, affording participants the chance to become a qualified umpire with the costs of the examination fee covered by the SHCA. "Even players, please take advantage of this opportunity," Derek encouraged as this will also give players more insight into decision made by umpires on the pitch. The lecture material will be presented online at a venue to be confirmed over the course of three 1.5hr sessions per afternoon.

"Exciting things are happening with cricket on St Helena," Tony concluded as he wished the SHCA and the cricket team well with all their endeavours for 2026.



The Island Pulse

Understanding St Helena Through the Numbers



— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

Inside the State of the Nation presentation

This week's edition of The Island Pulse focused on one of the most important tools used to understand how St Helena is changing: the annual State of the Nation presentation, delivered to the Financial Aid Mission (FAM) two weeks ago.

Hosted by Communications Champion, Councillor Julie Thomas, the programme welcomed Chief Statistician Neil Fantom, alongside Councillors Clint Beard and Robert Midwinter, to unpack what the data tells us about population change, the economy, health outcomes and the pressures facing the island in the years ahead.

The discussion followed public interest expressed after Councillors met with the FAM team during their visit in the week commencing 19 January, where the presentation formed a key part of briefings.

Why the State of the Nation matters

Neil Fantom explained that the State of the Nation was deliberately redesigned several years ago. Rather than producing a lengthy, text-heavy report that quickly became outdated, the Statistics Office now presents the information through around 20 clear graphical slides.

The aim is simple: to communicate complex data in a way that is easier to understand and more useful for decision-making.

The presentation draws on census data, immigration records, and births and deaths registers, allowing the Statistics Office to produce unusually detailed and up-to-date estimates for a population of St Helena's size. The full presentation is publicly available on the St Helena Government website, under "St Helena in Figures" on the Statistics section - https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/app/uploads/2026/02/260119-State-of-the-Nation-January-2025-updated-19-Jan-26.pdf

Population: stable numbers, changing shape

One of the clearest messages from the data is that while St Helena's **population has only declined slightly, its structure has changed dramatically.**

The resident population currently sits at around **4,000 people**, fluctuating seasonally when visitors arrive, particularly around Christmas. During airport construction the population rose to around 4,500 but has since returned to pre-airport levels.

More significant than the headline number, however, is the age profile. Where St Helena once had a classic "population pyramid", with large numbers of children and young adults, it now resembles what Neil described as a "barrel".

- **The largest age group is now people aged 60–69**
- **The smallest age group is 20–29,** the core working and childbearing years

This has far-reaching consequences: fewer workers and taxpayers, fewer births, and growing pressure on services.

Births, deaths and natural decline

The programme highlighted a shift that is now built into the population trend. In recent years, **deaths have begun to outnumber births**, independent of migration.

In 2023 and 2024 there were **84 births in total**, around 42 per year. In contrast, **2025 saw just 12 births**, alongside **71 deaths**, a striking imbalance driven largely by the ageing population.

Neil noted that while deaths at this level are not historically unprecedented, the combination of **very low births and rising deaths** now accounts for a population decline of around **60 people per year**, similar in scale to net outward migration.

Migration and perception versus reality

Public perception often suggests large numbers of inward migrants, but the data tells a different story. Non-St Helenians account for only **5–6% of the resident population**.

Councillor Midwinter added that historical immigration data shows an average of around eight **people per year** gaining settled status over long periods - far below the numbers needed to offset natural population decline.

Projections produced by the Statistics Office suggest that without significant inward migration, the population could fall **well below 3,000 by 2051**, a scenario described during the programme as "scary".

Health, ageing and causes of death

The ageing demographic is also reflected in health outcomes. Using international World Health Organi-

zation (WHO) standards for the first time, the Statistics Office has produced the most robust data yet on causes of death.

The leading causes are now:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancers
- Diabetes

The prominence of diabetes stands out compared to many other countries. Neil explained that this reflects a modern pattern seen in ageing societies, where people live long enough to develop non-communicable diseases rather than dying from infections.

Life expectancy on St Helena continues to rise, with **women living around three to four years longer than men,** a pattern consistent globally. Notably, St Helena did not experience the sharp life-expectancy dip seen elsewhere during COVID-19.

The cost of living and inflation

Inflation was another major focus. Neil explained how inflation is calculated using an "average basket" of goods and services, based on household expenditure surveys.

Recent inflation trends reflect a series of shocks:

- Low inflation during COVID
- Sharp rises following the invasion of Ukraine, driven by fuel and food costs
- A significant downward effect when faster internet became available at similar prices
- Renewed increases from electricity, bread and meat price rises

As of **December 2024**, the annual inflation rate stood at **2.2%**, though prices remain higher overall than in previous years.

Wages, employment and GDP

Median wages - which better reflect typical earnings - showed a **small real-terms increase in 2023–24**, the first in several years. This is partly attributed to minimum wage increases.

However, the number of wage earners has **declined significantly**, reflecting the shrinking working-age population.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures total economic output, has remained broadly flat in per-person terms but has declined overall as the population falls. St Helena's economy remains **dominated by services**, particularly public administration, health and education.

Imports, exports and visitors

St Helena remains heavily reliant on imports, particularly fuel, food, machinery and equipment. A notable spike in imports reflected the installation of OneWeb satellite infrastructure at Horse Point.

On the export side, while fish and coffee remain small contributors, **visitor spending is one of the island's largest exports**, bringing an estimated **£5–6 million per year** into the economy and representing a major source of external income outside UK aid.

Energy and the renewable challenge

Figures on electricity generation showed that renewable energy (wind and solar) currently accounts for **around 11%** of generation - similar to levels seen in 2013 and well below the **35% peak reached in 2018**.

Councillors noted that this reinforces the need to revisit renewable energy as a strategic priority, particularly to reduce fuel imports and long-term costs.

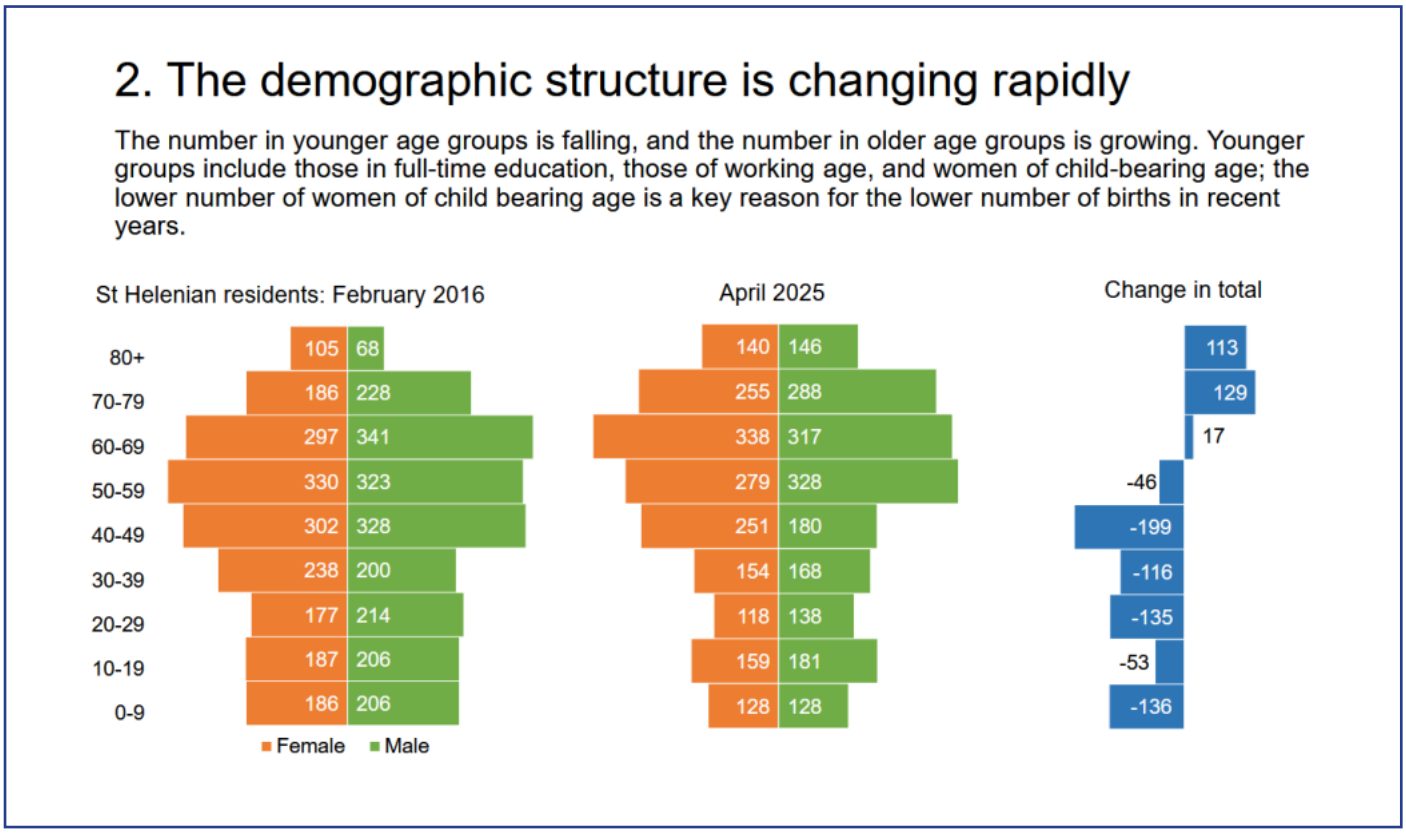
Using data to shape decisions

Closing the programme, Neil Fantom emphasised that the role of statistics is not simply to produce numbers, but to **support better decisions** - by government and by the public.

He encouraged residents to engage with the data, question it, and suggest improvements, stressing that the value of statistics lies in how they are used.

Further discussion will continue in upcoming episodes of The Island Pulse, including contributions from Social Policy Planner Ann Muir and Portfolio Director of Economic Development, Damian Burns, who will explore the implications of the ageing population and economic trends in more depth.

REMINDER - The State of the Nation presentation is available online via the St Helena Government Statistics pages - https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/app/uploads/2026/02/260119-State-of-the-Nation-January-2025-updated-19-Jan-26.pdf.



SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

102.7 (Jamestown) • 90.5 (High Knoll) • 105.1 (Sunberry) • 105.3 (Blue Hill)

Streaming live via www.sams.sh/radio.html

FRI. Feb 06

- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 11am American Connections (Repeat)
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Feb 07

- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show
- 1pm-3pm:Northward Sounds (Repeat)
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna (Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. Feb 08

- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Donna Crowie
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Salvation Army Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Feb 09

- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 1pm-3pm:Indie waves with Sue
- 3-5pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30pm: In the Know with Ministers

TUE. Feb 10

- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 10am:Ministers Question Time
- 11am: Vibes with Annika
- 2pm: The Island Pulse
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. Feb 11

- 7am-8:30am : Midweek morning show with Deon
- 11am: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 1-3pm 1548 show with Cyril Gunnell
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm: Vibes With Annika

THU. Feb 12

- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 1pm: In the Know (repeat)
- 3-5pm: Vibes with Anita (repeat)
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7:30pm: The Island Pulse

Reach us on ***22727*** or at ***news@sams.sh***

sure

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week





Discover fresh sounds with our brand-new show on SAMS Radio 1, 'Indie Waves', your weekly journey into Indie music where creativity meets authenticity.

Every week, Indie Waves will spotlight raw talent, hidden gems and exclusive tracks that celebrate independent artists who craft unique sounds outside the mainstream; blending genres and expressing genuine stories through their art.

Tune in every Monday at 1pm on SAMS Radio 1 and explore the vibrant world beyond the charts. (Repeated at 9am on Saturdays).

Local news and notices:

7am, 10am, noon, 5pm, 7pm, 10pm

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Master'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

7	3	4	8	9	5	2	6	1
2	1	9	4	6	7	8	3	5
6	8	5	2	3	1	9	7	4
9	2	6	1	7	8	5	4	3
8	5	1	9	4	3	6	2	7
4	7	3	6	5	2	1	9	8
5	6	8	7	2	4	3	1	9
3	4	2	5	1	9	7	8	6
1	9	7	3	8	6	4	5	2

8				6				
	2					9		
9				1	7			8
	5			7	4		1	
			2					4
7			6					
2				9	8			1
		3					5	
			4					

Throwback Thursday

1977: Future 5-division world boxing champion, Sugar Ray Leonard, makes his professional debut with a 6-round unanimous decision win over Luis Vega at Baltimore's Civic Center



Are you a lover of Mac n Cheese? Do you like to put a little twist on your dinner? Why not try out this recipe from First Choice! Even though we don't get all of the First Choice items mentioned, we can substitute for what we do have available.

Fried Mac & Cheese Balls



Ingredients

- 250g Macaroni Pasta, cooked until very soft and drained
- 80g First Choice Butter
- 80ml Cake Flour
- 375ml First Choice Milk
- 200g First Choice Mature Cheddar Cheese, grated
- 150g Mozzarella Cheese, grated
- 200g Bacon, crispy fried and chopped
- 30ml English Mustard
- 2.5ml Chilli Flakes (optional)
- 2 Eggs
- 60ml First Choice Milk
- 100g Panko Breadcrumbs
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- Sunflower Oil for frying
- Kitchen Paper for draining

Method

1. Melt the First Choice Butter in a small saucepan, add the flour and stir for 1 minute. Remove from the heat and add all of the 375ml First Choice Milk. Stir well and return to the heat.
2. Stir frequently until the mixture is thick and starts to boil. Remove from the heat and season with salt and pepper.
3. Combine the sauce, cheeses, pasta, bacon, chives, mustard and chili and season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Transfer to a dish to cool at room temperature, cover and leave in the fridge overnight (or a few hours).
5. Beat together the eggs and 60ml First Choice Milk.
6. Place the breadcrumbs in a shallow bowl.
7. Scoop out large tablespoons of the chilled macaroni mixture and roll into balls (use a little cold water on your hands if needed to prevent sticking).
8. Dip the balls into the egg and then into the panko crumbs.
9. Heat the oil in a deep fryer or saucepan to 160°C and fry the balls until golden brown and crisp.
10. Drain on the kitchen paper and garnish with chives.

TIP – Use pretzel sticks as toothpicks and serve as a delicious snack.

Acknowledging the Past, Nurturing the Future



St Helena Culture Centre design team (L-R): Michael Popper, Matthew Woodthorpe, Adam Redgrove, & Nathalie Hurlstone

Expert Team visits St Helena to progress historic St Helena Culture Centre project

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Culture Centre is an ongoing project on the Island. A community-driven, government-supported initiative, the aim of the project is to construct a cultural building in Jamestown that is of world-class quality, pulling together the Museum of St Helena, the Jamestown Public Library, and the St Helena Government Archives; three institutions essential to the past, present and future of the Island.

The centre, which will be housed in two historic buildings located at the foot of Jacob's Ladder, is being designed by Matthew Woodthorpe, Founder and Director of MWAI Architecture & Interiors - a London-based design practice that specialises in architecture and interior design for private homes and heritage buildings, delivering what they describe as "exceptional craftsmanship."

MWAI's concept is to preserve the integrity of these local landmarks at the foot of Jacob's Ladder, while proposing novel architectural interventions to promote accessibility, conservation, and public engagement.

Matthew, who is leading on the project, brings experience from a career spanning over three decades, during which he has developed an expertise in low energy housing, alongside a detailed understanding of architectural heritage and refurbishment, particularly in London.

To assist with the design of the St Helena Culture Centre, Matthew has enlisted the help of an expert team. This includes Architect, Nathalie Hurlstone, who trained at the University of Cambridge to achieve her architectural accreditation before joining MWAI in 2022. She describes her approach to architecture as being informed by a desire to understand existing communities and contexts. Alongside these architects are Engineers, Adam Redgrove and Michael Popper. Adam is the Director of EngineersHRW, a creative structural and civil engineering consultancy based in the UK, while Michael is the Founding Director of p3r Engineers, an employee-owned building services engineering practice specialising in sustainable, low-carbon, and passive design.

Matthew and his colleagues have been working closely with the St Helena Heritage Society on the Culture Centre project and recently, on 27 January, arrived on the island for a short visit to finalise the construction details in order to ensure that the project can be put up for tender soon.

As stated, the Culture Centre will bring together the Museum, Library and Archive in one location. As such, the new archive will be a low-energy, humidity-controlled building dedicated to preserving the island's unique historical records while the plan for the library is to be on the ground floor of the PWD Store, providing modern, tourist-friendly facilities for education and outreach. A new gallery and lecture hall on the top level of the building increases the Museum's capacity for exhibitions and events.

All in all, the Culture Centre is a historic initiative for St Helena, bringing heritage, learning, and community together in a setting that acknowledges the island's past while nurturing its future. This is however a community project and will be entirely developed through fundraising.

As an incredible contribution, MWAI Architecture & Interiors are currently providing their expertise pro bono, meaning free of charge and for the good of the public. The team departed St Helena this week.



Adam Redgrove inside the ex-PWD Building which will become the St Helena Culture Centre



Concept of the St Helena Culture Centre

SOCIAL MEDIA

ADDICTION & ITS EFFECTS

What is it?

Also known as 'Problematic social media use' (PSMU), social media addiction is being overly concerned with social media, driven by the strong urge to log on to, or use social media, and devoting so much time and effort to it, that it impacts your daily life and well being. It can affect your mental health, sleep patterns, relationships, your studies, even your work/career.



Effects

Researchers found the negative effects of excessive social media use include:

- **MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES:** High correlation with anxiety, depression, increased stress, and suicidal thoughts. This can be brought on by cyber bullying, which happens often on social media platforms.
- **ADDICTION & BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES:** Symptoms similar to drug addiction, including mood swings, paranoia, and withdrawal symptoms such as being irritable whilst away from social media.
- **SLEEP DISRUPTION:** Reduced sleep quality, shorter duration of sleep, and difficulty sleeping at all.
- **COGNITIVE & SOCIAL IMPAIRMENT:** Reduced attention span, potential ADHD-like symptoms, and diminished in-person social interaction.
- **FEELINGS OF LONELINESS:** One study found that high usage of Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram increases feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- **NEGATIVE COMPARISONS:** This leads to poor body image, low self-esteem, and the "fear of missing out" (FOMO).

The severity of these effects depends on the amount of time spent and frequency of use, with young people being particularly vulnerable.

Overcoming It

Overcoming social media addiction is crucial to prevent serious mental health issues like anxiety and depression, improve sleep, boost productivity, and foster real-world relationships.
Excessive use disrupts daily life, and can cause self-esteem issues, making it essential to manage usage for better emotional and psychological well-being.

Tips for Everyone

SET APP SCREEN TIME LIMITS
Use 'Digital Wellbeing' settings on your phone to limit social media app use to between 30 mins to 2 hrs per day, to maintain good mental health. Exceeding 2 hours on social media per day, research says, increases the risks of anxiety, depression, and social isolation.

SET "DIGITAL DETOX" TIMES
Set specific times of the day to be completely offline, for example, at least one hour before bedtime, during mealtimes, or by designating "screen-free zones" in the home e.g. bedrooms. Also ensure app notifications are switched off.

MAINTAIN 'OFFLINE' RELATIONS
Maintain in-person relationships and hobbies, like sports, music, or art, to reduce reliance on digital platforms for social fulfilment.

Tips for Parents

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
Parents/guardians should use parental control apps such as 'Google Family Link' or 'Qustodio', or devices with buit-in parental controls e.g. TP-Link Deco Wi-Fi Router, to set screen time limits on your children's devices, and block apps they shouldn't use.

TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN
Have open, ongoing discussions about the negative effects of social media, and the importance of taking breaks and limiting screen time for their mental health and wellbeing.

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2026

NOTICE BOARD

Public Notice

St Helena Enters First Stage of Drought Management – Public Urged to Conserve Water

St Helena has now entered the first stage of drought management as stored water levels continue to decline. Current reserves stand at 81,009 m³, equivalent to around 60 days of supply, and consumption remains high. Daily demand is approximately 1,433 m³, significantly exceeding the 887 m³ currently being abstracted.

This imbalance, combined with steadily falling surface water flows and rising temperatures, is placing increasing strain on the Island's water resources. The Red Hill zone—supplying Half Tree Hollow, St Paul's, and the Hutt's Gate system (which feeds Longwood and Alarm Forest)—remains the highest-demand area, adding further pressure to the water storage systems.

While seasonal reductions in rainfall are expected, recent weeks have seen a sharp drop in inflows, increasing reliance on boreholes to maintain supply. Without a change in weather patterns, St Helena could face severe water shortages in the coming weeks.

What this means for the community

- Stored water levels are declining..
- Consumption is outpacing supply.
- All districts are affected, with Red Hill under the greatest strain.
- Conservation is urgently needed to safeguard resources until the next rainy season.

Call to Action

Connect Saint Helena Ltd urges all domestic, commercial, and government consumers to use water sparingly and avoid unnecessary consumption. Every effort made now will help preserve supplies and support the Island through this challenging period.

St Helena's water resources are under significant pressure, and collective action is essential. Notably, 2025 shows a sharp drop in rainfall after July, highlighting reduced precipitation in the latter half of the year, which may be contributing to current drought conditions.

By reducing consumption today, the community can help safeguard supplies and strengthen resilience until the next rainy season, which we remain hopeful will arrive later this year.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd will continue to monitor conditions closely and provide regular updates as the situation changes.

30 January 2026

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

BENEFITS

- → **Leave** – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- → **Pension** – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- → **Training and Development**
- → **Paid sickness absence**

HOW TO APPLY

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

Administration Team Leader (£13,569 per annum)

The Administration Team Leader will contribute to service delivery by coordinating the daily operations of the Administration Assistants and Receptionists within the Administration Support Service, ensuring that all administrative tasks are performed efficiently and effectively to enable the Portfolios to operate smoothly. Located in the Central Support Service but mobile across the Portfolios, this role promotes efficiencies and assists the Senior Administration Team Leader in creating an effective administration service that adapts to the evolving requirements of a contemporary Public Service.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **18 February 2026**
Shortlisting date: **23 February 2026**
Interview date: **04 March 2026**

The St Helena Public Service welcomes all applications from across our whole community, including our St Helenian diaspora wishing to return to St Helena. If you are a St Helenian currently living and working overseas, please contact us at recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh to discuss how we can support you.
SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy
Building Works Foreman

Salary for the post will commence at £16,668 per annum (£1,389 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Building Works Department for a Foreman.

As the Foreman you will supervise the delivery of building services in accordance with plans, policies and Health & Safety requirements, and to co-ordinate operations and oversee workers at construction sites.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have Grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English or equivalent
- Have a minimum of 3 years' experience as a qualified tradesperson and ideally possess NVQ Level 2 or above or equivalent in the construction field
- Have proven experience as a Construction Foreman and the ability to organise and lead a team
- Be knowledgeable of and able to perform hands on construction and carpentry works
- Be computer literate and knowledgeable in the use of Microsoft Applications
- Have the ability to understand drawings, and plans and ensure job specifications are met accordingly
- Have knowledge of construction procedures, equipment and HSE guidelines with the ability to carry out risk assessments ensuring that health and safety requirements are adhered to at all times.
- Be able to motivate and mentor staff members
- Be able to produce estimates, costing and quotation for jobs
- Be aware of quality standards, ensuring completed works meet requirements
- Be in possession of a clean and valid drivers licence in classes A & C

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Mr Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties) via 22380 gm-services.properties@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **12 February 2026.**

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

Vacancy
Part-Time Ramp Handlers

Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has vacancies for Part-Time Ramp Handlers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a good standard of English & ICT
- Be in possession of a clean & valid Drivers' Licence ideally in class D
- Be committed to delivering an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake repetitive Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment to meet tight deadlines
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment and remain calm in high pressure situations

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via 22523 gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 12 February 2026.**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.

Vacancy

Part-Time Security Officers

Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Security Officers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a high standard of English & ICT skills
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be available to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Have the ability to multitask and work with a high degree of accuracy in a high pressure environment
- Have the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- Be committed to continuous learning and development

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via 22523 gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 12 February 2026.**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.

Vacancy

Part-Time Skilled Operator

Rate of pay will be £7.02 per hour.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Skilled Operator to join the Company's Stevedore Team.

The successful applicant will be responsible for operating heavy equipment, including facilitation of the loading and offloading of shipping containers and cargo from sea vessels. This position will primarily be based ship-side.

Working hours will be according to ship and cargo operations, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be in possession of a clean and valid drivers' licence in classes H3, J1, J3 & J4, with a minimum of two years' experience
- Have - strong technical skills
- Have excellent hand-eye coordination and ability to work at heights
- Ability to adapt quickly to changing conditions ensuring operations remain safe
- Demonstrate attention to detail with an excellent level of vigilance within the work environment
- Possess strong communication skills
- Good level of physical fitness with the ability to undertake physically demanding tasks
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment with a high regard for Health & Safety and Port Compliance
- Be able to work in varying weather conditions

For further information contact:

Mario Coleman, Marine & Cargo Ops Manager via 22523 mario.coleman@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **12 February 2026.**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying

NOTICE BOARD



CUSTOMER NOTICE

The **Customer Services Department and Terminal** are moving to the new **Customer Services Centre** (located in the ex-Bazarre building).

Key Dates

- Final day at current location: Monday, 9 February (until 3:00pm).
- Opening at new location: Tuesday, 10 February.

Customer Services Opening Hours

- **Monday - Fridays** : 8:45am – 3:00pm
- **Saturdays :** 9:00am – 12:00pm

The Customer Services team look forward to welcoming you to this new location.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017 and the Company Ordinance, 2004

info@sainthelenabank.com
+290 22390
www.sainthelenabank.com
Market Street, Jamestown
@sainthelenabank
Bank of St Helena Ltd

Community Development Organisation

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 17 Feb 2026 | **Time:** 6:00pm | **Where:** Jamestown Community Centre

The Community Development Organisation (CDO) was established in 2013 to support St Helena's civil society through a Community Grant Scheme.

SHG funding for the Grant Scheme was suspended in 2020. We continue to offer match-funding grants up to £1,000 from our reserves. These grants act as a vital source of support for local organisations, many of which are solely reliant on volunteers.

If you are passionate about and believe in the value of St Helena's voluntary organisations, charities, Community Centres, clubs and Non-Government Organisations, please come along and show your support.

Light refreshments provided.

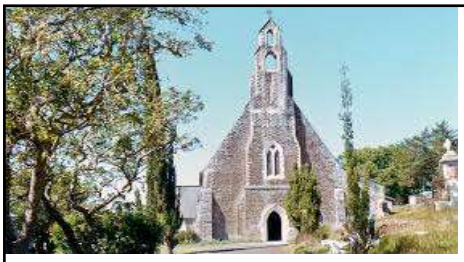
Current Committee

Chairperson:	**Mia Henry**
Vice Chairperson:	**Lori Pinter**
Treasurer:	**Dave Brown**
Secretary:	**Emerald Newman-Yon**
Committee Members:	**Shayla Ellick**
	Tracey Williams
	Vince Thompson
	Kenickie Andrews

Our Bank Balance at 31 March 2025 was £20,947.32.

Please help keep the Community Grant Scheme alive.

If you are interested in joining the Committee or would like more information in advance of the meeting please contact the Committee Secretary or email cdosthelena@gmail.com



ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL
2026 FUND RAISING SCHEDULE

Wednesday 11th February	Twilight/Moonlight Stroll
Thursday 26th March	Cake Stall in the Market, Jamestown
Friday 10th April	After Easter Meat Feast at Kingshurst Community Centre
Thursday 21st May	Stall on St Helena Day
Friday 12th June	BBQ Night at Kingshurst Community Centre
Friday 3rd July	Curry Nite at Kingshurst Community Centre
Thursday 27th August	Cake Stall in the Market, Jamestown
Friday 4th September	Fish Fry at Kingshurst Community Centre
November	King's Birthday Fun Day at Kingshurst Community Centre
Friday 4th December	St Nicholas Ball at Kingshurst Community Centre

Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week - Great Stone Top

Date: Saturday, 7 February 2026
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Silver Hill Shop, Levelwood (then car share to the starting point).
Google maps location: -15.97439, -5.68469
Duration: approx 3 hours

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

Great Stone Top is another fantastic Post Box walk showcasing some of the more interesting rock formations. As you reach the post box there are stunning views of the ocean and St Helena Airport.

Please wear sensible footwear, wear sun protection and bring lots of water.
Please Note: The peak of Great Stone Top is not suitable for those with a fear of heights

Walking guide(s) – Walk led by guide Louis Youde

Date	Upcoming Walks
Sunday, 15 Feb 2026	Lot's Wife Ponds

Receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' email dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh or the Tourist Office T: 22158

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Gospel Outreach Services
Sunday, 8th February:
Sandy Bay Community Centre, 3.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 10th February -
Baptist School Hall, 7.00 pm
Wednesday, 11th February -
Blue Hill Community, 7.00 pm
Thursday, 12th February -
Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 4 – 11 yrs old
Saturday, 7th February -
Baptist School Hall, 10.00 am to 11.30 am

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday, 18th February -
Baptist School Hall, 10.30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME
For further information contact: 22388



Hey Kids

Come and join Adventure Kids for some Fun & Games, Arts and Craft, Songs & loads of stories to be told.

WHERE: Baptist School Hall, Jamestown
WHO: Age 4-11yrs old
WHEN: 07/02/26
TIME: 10h00-11h30
Refreshments will be served.



DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 8th February 2026 – 5th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
11.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
5.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship and Praise**	**Cathedral**
	Tuesday 10th February	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship and Praise**	**Sandy Bay Community Centre**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 8th February 2026 – 5th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St John
	Thursday 12th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 8th February 2026 – 5th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade	St Mark
	Tuesday 10th February	
7.00 p.m.	70x7 Forgiveness	St Mark

NOTICE BOARD



FEBRUARY OPENING HOURS

Main Branch

Monday - Friday	08:45 - 15:00
Saturday	09:00 - 12:00

Airport Kiosk

Flight days only	10:30 - 14:30

Update to Our Opening Hours: Remote Banking

HTH Supermarket	Thursday, 26 February	09:30 – 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Friday, 27 February	09:30 – 13:00

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

info@sainthelenabank.com +290 22390

www.sainthelenabank.com Market Street, Jamestown

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FOR SALE are the following items:

- Bosch washing-machine (Automatic front loader)
- Kitchen Table and four chairs (locally made)
- Kitchen Welsh dresser (Locally made)
- Coffee table (Small)
- Mirrored Coffee table (Locally made)
- Office/Reception desk (Locally made)
- Bedside Cabinets x2 (Locally made) German made with pull-out tray x2 (solid Oak)
- RC model airplanes: Hurricane, Spitfire, Supper Craft. All ready to fly with batteries and Radio gear.
- Cannon ix6850 professional photo printer + Supply of ink cartridges
- Computer flat screens x2 and cables
- Computer power backup systems x2 and cables

Contact John Reid on telephone 23913

Looking for a home



My name is **ROXY** and I'm free to a new home. I'm five years old and have been neutered. I have a loving personality, I'm very friendly of am of sound temperament.

If you want me to join your family or if you need and further information, please contact or message, John, my current carer on **23913**



ST ANDREWS NEWSPAPER BINGO

Games will be played over a five-week period – each week a different set of numbers will be published

This week the "red" bingo sheet will be used.

Numbers to be read across, from left to right

Claim on earliest number for full house will be the winner

Claims to be made to Karen Henry on 23401 by Saturday 7 February at 6 pm.

Prize - £20 per week

72	9	59	13	39	70	24	89	11	41
66	51	78	43	29	60	4	32	82	16
38	74	7	57	26	69	42	77	35	53
27	90	81	45	76	61	19	6	31	48
28	18	46	34	21	79	30	5	65	49
14	75	54	84	1	23	12	20	64	71
47	73	56	86	36	33	62	3	50	68

NOTICE BOARD



KING'S BATON RELAY
GLASGOW 2026

NSASH

Expressions of Interest –
Kings Baton Relay 2026 Artwork

The National Sports Association of St. Helena (NSASH) are excited to offer local artists and artisans an opportunity to get involved with the upcoming Kings Baton Relay 2026.

We are inviting expressions of interest to decorate all or part of the **King's Baton 2026**. We are looking for your interpretation of the essence of St. Helena Island, its people, sporting heritage and/or unique environment.

This is a rare opportunity to showcase your creativity by designing your original artwork in **any medium except plastic**, using your own materials and having your work recognised as part of St. Helena's sporting history on the **global stage**.

For more details about the King's Baton Relay and inspiration to for your design; please follow the link https://www.commonwealthsport.com/kings-baton-relay/baton

Artists and artisans should submit proposed artwork ideas and designs by **12 noon** on **Friday 20th February 2026**. For the full artwork brief and further information, please email nsash@helanta.co.sh.

Be bold. Be creative. Leave your mark on history!

'Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest'

News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project

Welcome to the first 'news bite' from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project for 2026!

Today, we update you on the support from our partners at Kew Gardens and the crucial research underway for the future of one of our most iconic endemic cloud forest species— The She Cabbage, *Lachanodes arborea*

One of the biggest challenges in conserving this unique species, which is extinct in the wild, is its unpredictable and low seed production, making long-term seed storage a vital strategy for its survival. However, storing its seeds is not simple; early trials suggest they may be recalcitrant, meaning they cannot withstand conventional drying methods without losing viability!

To investigate, the Millennium Seed Bank conducted a trial with 100 seeds sent from St Helena, testing whether standard seed banking techniques could work or if specialised methods are needed. While results so far are inconclusive, Kew reports that seedlings from this first trial are now thriving in the glasshouse the Millennium Seed Bank. Once mature, they'll help us learn more about seed collection, storage and long-term preservation.

Kew's work is helping to ensure the survival of one of St Helena's most iconic species, all while highlighting the importance of research in global plant conservation!



She Cabbage plants at the seedbank glass-house; they will be grown for display and research. Kew hopes to collect seed from them in a few years to continue their work.

Be sure to follow the St Helena Peaks National Park on Facebook, and @StHelenaPNP on X, to stay up to date with all the latest news and information on the FCDO-funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project

Scan the QR Codes below for quick access to:

Website Facebook Twitter/X

RSPB UK Government ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST Connect St Helena Island UBC DARWIN INITIATIVE Kew the species recovery trust Arctium UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Cha Cha Cha Format Makes History at St Helena Golf Club



SHGC, Contributed

Sunday, 1 February, saw a strong turnout of golfers at St Helena Golf Club for a unique 4 or 3 man Cha Cha Cha Stableford competition, the first time this exciting format has been played at the club. The event was generously sponsored by Laura Buckley, whose support and innovation were warmly appreciated by all involved.

Players enjoyed dry and warm conditions, ideal for scoring, although fast greens ensured that accuracy and touch were at a premium throughout the round.

After an entertaining and closely contested competition, first prize was claimed with an impressive 85 combined Stableford points by the four ball of Laura Buckley, Keith Joshua, Jeffrey Stevens, and Lawson Henry.

Finishing in second place on 82 points was the trio of Bramwell Bushuru, Gerald George, and Neil Joshua, while third prize, with 78 points, went to Hensil Beard, Paddo Johnson, and Freddy Thomas.

- Longest Drive (Gents): Lawson Henry
- Longest Drive (Ladies): Helena Stevens
- Nearest to the Pin (16th hole): Bramwell Bushuru



1st Prize Winners



2nd Prize Winners



3rd Prize Winners

There was no winner in the Two Ball Pool, and as a result, the balls will be carried forward to next Sunday. Players wishing to participate in the Two Ball Pool for the Leon Crowie Memorial, but who did not compete in this event, will be required to put in two balls.

The club extends its profound thanks to Laura Buckley for her generous sponsorship and for introducing such a refreshing and enjoyable competition format. Congratulations are extended to all the winners.

Coming Up

Golfers are reminded that on Sunday, 8 February 2026, the club will host the 3 Club Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge, an 18 hole stroke play competition, with a tee off time of 12:00. The event is sponsored by the family of the late Leon Crowie. Registration closes on Saturday, 7 February 2026. The club looks forward to another excellent turnout and encourages as many members as possible to take part.

For news and information follow us on Facebook and checkout our website www.sthelenagolf.com.

World's Most Remote Marathon

St Helena Island

Help Make the World's Most Remote Marathon a Success!

St Helena Tourism is gearing up for the World's Most Remote Marathon on the 22nd February 2026!

We are looking for volunteers to assist with marshalling on the day ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for the courageous runners taking on this rare adventure.

Can you join us?

You can make a difference by marshalling at the below locations:

Red Hill	Silver Hill
Rosemary Plain	Red Hill (LW)
Cleughs Plain	Woody Ridge
White Wall	Airport Road
Francis Plain	Deadwood
Lemon Tree Gut	Longwood Gate
Stitches Ridge	Hutts Gate
Green Hill	The Dungeon
Rock Rose	Gordon's Post
Taglate	Corner Wall

Let us know if you are interested and thank you for your consideration!

Please contact the Tourist Office

T: 22158 E: events@sainthelena.gov.sh

sthelenatourism.com

SPORTS ARENA

Undefeated Champions



Challengers take home fourth straight SHCA League Title in style

Luke Bennett, SAMS

Challengers have taken home the SHCA League Title for the fourth year running after defeating Sandy Bay Pirates on Sunday to conclude a dominating undefeated run in this year's tournament.

Challengers batted first, and although they lost three wickets relatively early in the innings, it was Man of the Match, Andrew Yon, who stood up to the task to put on a batting master class, contributing an incredible 178 runs off 100 balls to help his side to a massive total of 327. Rhys Francis was the standout bowler for Pirates with three wickets and would become their standout batsman as well when he replied with 87 during the chase. However, with some outstanding bowling from Challengers, led by Jordan Yon with 4 wickets for 37 runs, Francis couldn't find a partner to help him for a sustained period of time, and Pirates were eventually bowled out for 193. Another dominant performance means Challengers are League Champions for a fourth consecutive year, finishing this season undefeated.

On Saturday the Heat defeat the Cobras in an exciting match which would see the youngsters once again take the spotlight. Cobras batted first and, thanks to a 33 from Patrick Crowie, posted a total of 175. Jason Thomas was the standout bowler for Heat with three wickets for 17 runs, while young Hugo Richards also impressed, contributing four wickets and posting 34 runs with the bat to earn himself Player of the Match honours as he helped his team to victory.

In the final game of the weekend, Levelwood Allstars beat Western A Mustangs. Mustangs won the toss and batted first posting a total of 200 thanks to a half century from Kyle Bennett. The pick of the bowlers for Allstars was Clayton Leo, taking a wicket and conceding just 18 runs in seven overs. Allstars batting innings started shaky, losing their top order early, however it was Man of the Match, Shavone Leo, who would step up with 40 runs to help see his team across the finish line. Allstars have now cemented their place as runners-up this year, with the remaining teams still to play their postponed games.

So once again, Challengers are your SHCA League Champions 2026. Congrats guys.

FIXTURES

Saturday 7th Feb

Jamestown Heat v Sandy Bay Pirates
(35 over league postponed match)
Umpires: Brendan Leo and Weston Clingham

Sunday 8th Feb
08:30 Jamestown v Levelwood
Umpires: Derek Richards and Gavin Ellick

11:00 St Pauls v HTH
Umpires: Rhys Francis and Brett Isaac

14:00 Sandy Bay v Longwood
Umpires: Jamie Essex and Barry Stroud

